

## Gulf of Maine Coastal Program

Building partnerships to protect and restore nationally important fish and wildlife habitat in the Gulf of Maine watershed

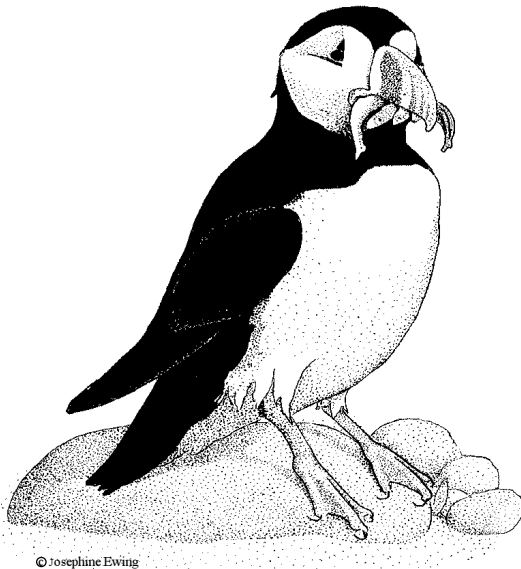
The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, established in 1991 as one of a nationwide network of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program offices, focuses on protecting economically, recreationally, and ecologically important coastal fish and wildlife habitat through partnerships. Using existing scientific data along with biological expertise and state-of-the-art computer mapping and database management capabilities, Gulf of Maine Program biologists analyze data, identify and map important fish and wildlife habitat, and recommend and implement habitat protection and restoration measures. By sharing biological information, offering technical assistance and identifying funding opportunities, Gulf of Maine Program works with interested parties -- federal and state agencies, statewide conservation groups, local land trusts and watershed associations, angling clubs, industry representatives and willing landowners -- to protect the tremendous coastal fish and wildlife resources in the Gulf of Maine watershed. *(See reverse side for information on the Gulf of Maine watershed).*

Working in voluntary non-regulatory partnerships, the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program has played a key role in:

- protecting more than 22,000 acres of high value fish and wildlife habitat, including 35 nesting islands, 65 coastal wetlands and associated upland buffer sites and 20 areas with habitat adjacent to migratory fish rivers,
- restoring more than 5,000 acres, including nesting islands, coastal wetlands, rivers and lakes.
- removing 10 man-made barriers and installing or repairing 11 fish passage facilities at existing dams, and
- leveraging more than \$30 million worth of habitat protection and restoration funding.

The Gulf of Maine Program also works in close cooperation with the Habitat Task Group of the International Commission for Environmental Cooperation, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and the National Estuary Programs in Casco Bay, ME and Great Bay, NH to provide information on fish and wildlife and ensure that living resources are considered in their Action Plans.

*Contact the Gulf of Maine Program for fact sheets about specific habitat analysis, public outreach, and habitat protection/restoration efforts. You can also find out more about the Gulf of Maine Program through our Internet site.*



*For further information, please contact:*

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